

DETAILED ACTION

1. The indicated allowability of claims 15-16 and 18 is hereby withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Oliphant (US 3,079,890). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities:

With respect to claim 18, lines 1-2, it is suggested that the term “a second segment” be deleted and replaced with --the second segment-- since the second segment was previously recited in claim 12.

Appropriate correction and/or clarification is required.

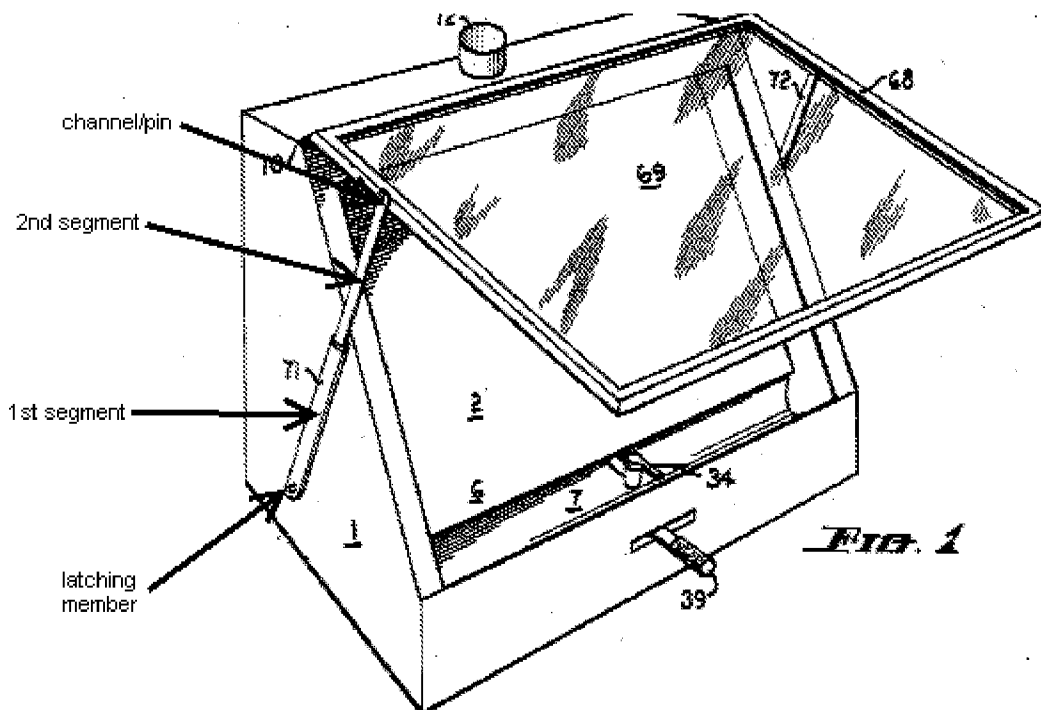
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

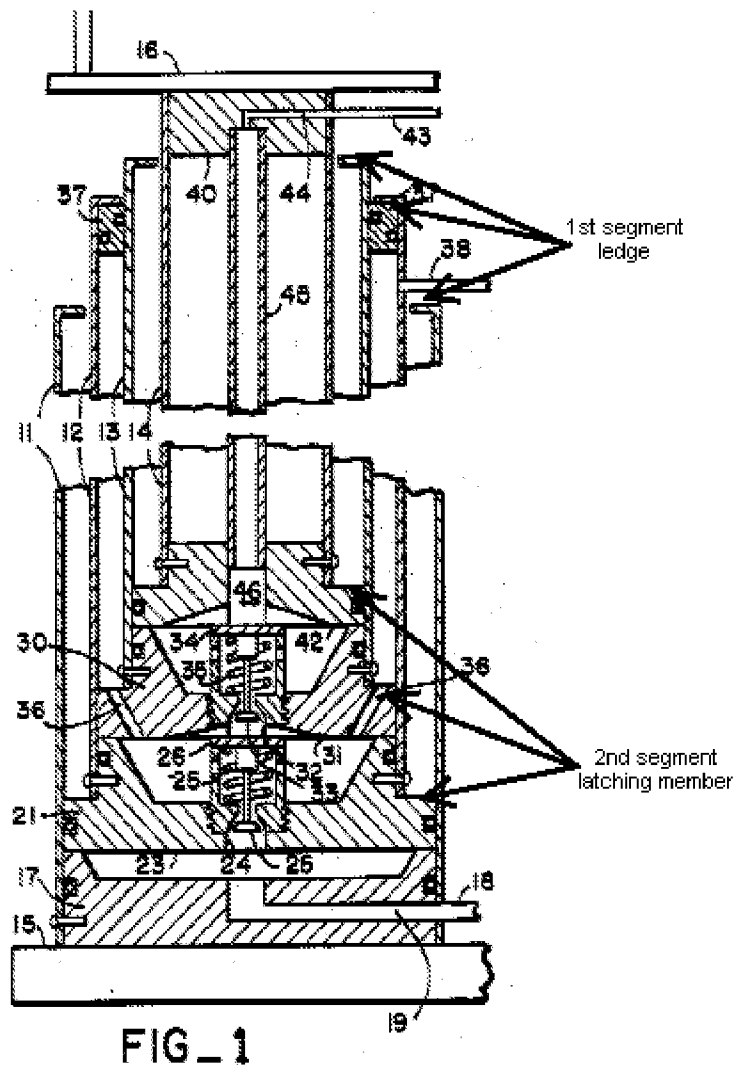
4. Claims 12 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oliphant (US 3,079,890) in view of Moore et al. (US 3,832,937). Oliphant teaches an image capture device comprising a lid 68, a housing 1, and at least two telescopic hinges 71 having a plurality of extensible segments, the at least

two telescopic hinges pivotally coupling the lid to the housing, wherein a first segment of the plurality of segments comprises a latching member (i.e., the pin shown in Fig. 1) that is broadly capable of engaging with a slot in the housing. Particular attention is invited to the marked up copy of Figure 1 below and column 3, lines 11-18 of Oliphant.



Note that it is not clear whether Oliphant teaches the details of the first and second segments as recited, such as the first segment having a ledge surrounding an opening and the second segment having a latching member operable to engage the ledge. However, Moore et al. teach a telescoping structure including a first segment having a ledge surrounding an opening and a second segment having a latching member operable to engage with the ledge is well known in the art.

Particular attention is invited to the marked up copy of Figure 1 of Moore et al. provided below.



In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the particular telescoping segment structure as taught by Moore et al. in the telescoping hinges of Oliphant as it would simply require the

substitution of one known telescoping arrangement for another to provide a more stable extending telescoping structure to hold the lid in any desired position.

With respect to claim 16, note Moore et al. teach the latching member of the second segment surrounds an end of the second segment, as shown in the marked up copy of Figure 1 of Moore et al.

With respect to claim 17, note the telescopic hinges 71 of Oliphant can broadly be considered to “releasably” couple the lid to the housing as recited.

With respect to claim 18, note Oliphant clearly shows a pin/channel type arrangement to pivotally couple the lid to the telescopic hinges in Figure 1 although it is not clear whether the second segment includes the pin or the channel.

However, the mere reversal of parts has been found to be an obvious mechanical expedient. See, in particular, MPEP 2144.04(VI)(A) and *In re Gazda*, 219 F.2d 449, 104 USPQ 400 (CCPA 1955). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the second segment of the telescopic hinges of Oliphant as modified by Moore et al. with a channel operable to accept a pin (or vice versa) to pivotally couple the lid to the telescopic hinge to provide secure connection between the hinge and lid.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12 and 16-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Leslie J. Evanisko** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-2161**. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F 8:00 am-6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ Leslie J. Evanisko /
Leslie J. Evanisko
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854

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June 8, 2008